

Flex Orientation Program

TASC held its first Flex Orientation session of the program year on October 26-27, 2004 in Duluth, MN. Participants from seven states attended, including Melanie Jorissen from Colorado, Lynne Weidel from Wyoming, Terrie Hairston from Texas, BJ Noll from Washington, Cindy Moore from Indiana, Jane Rolfe from South Carolina, and Ronnie Rom from Massachusetts. Participants learned about topics ranging from cost-based reimbursement and legislative/policy issues, to how TASC works. EMS and Quality/Performance Improvement

were also addressed. TASC created this program in response to a high turnover in Flex Program coordinators and the need to get new state staff acclimated as quickly as possible.

The TASC team has tentatively planned another Flex Orientation for July, 2005 in Duluth, MN. For more information, please contact Emily.

"Be careful about reading health books, you may die of a misprint."

~Mark Twain

Rural Health Quality Leadership Summit

On November 8-9, 2004, the third Rural Health Quality Leadership Summit was held in Arlington, Virginia. This conference unveiled the new Institute of Medicine report, "Quality Through Collaboration: The Future of Rural Health." The Summit was sponsored by the Office of Rural Health Policy and coordinated by the Rural Health Resource Center.

The IOM report was presented by Dr. Mary Wakefield and Dr. Janet Corrigan.

It contained five sections including "An Integrated Approach to Improving Health and Health Care in Rural Communities", "Quality Improvement Activities in Rural Areas", "Human Resources", "Finance", and "Rural Health Care in the Digital Age". Participants of the Summit had the opportunity to react to the report and do future planning for rural health quality based on the recommendations in the report.

Six cutting edge quality and performance improvement projects from across the country were also presented. Presenters included Sharon Doran from Apples to Apples in Trenton, Tennessee; Bill Rodgers from the Arkansas Chronic Disease Collaborative in Little Rock, Arkansas and Carol Raines from Boston Mountain Rural Health Center in Marshall, Arkansas; Tom Lefebvre from the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium in Anchorage, Alaska; Tom Martin from the Rural Health Quality Network in Davenport, Washington; David Coates from Clarke County Hospital in Osceola, Iowa; and Cathy Pfaff from Cypress Healthcare in Deer Lodge, Montana.



Rural Health Quality Leadership Summit Small Group Break-Out Session. Each group discussed and made recommendations for one of the four main tracks of the IOM Report including Quality, Financial, Human Resources, and Information and Communication Technology.

SAVE the DATES:

TASC 90 Conference Call

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

2:00-3:30pm CST

Call in number:

1-800-593-9038 passcode: 57577

More info. to come.

NEW TOOLS:

New IOM Report

Available at:

<http://www.iom.edu/report.asp?id=23359>

Rural Health Resource Directory

Available at:

<http://www.ruralcenter.org/consult/>

Flex Success Stories

TASC wants your Flex Success Stories to publish in our *OnTASC* newsletter! Send your story and a picture if possible, along with your contact information to Emily at TASC!



Emily and Jere-lyn in the Press Room in the West Wing of the White House. No comment!

TASC is administered by the Rural Health Resource Center. For additional information contact Terry Hill, Tami Lichtenberg, or Emily Hultman at 877-321-9393, tasc@ruralcenter.org or visit the TASC website at <http://tasc.ruralhealth.hrsa.gov>